



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.



Ascension Highlights What's Happening This Week

- Ascensionaires to ASF - Wednesday, Feb 11 @ 2:00 PM

- Beans & Rice Distribution - Saturday, Feb 14 @ 8:30 AM

- 50% Sale at The Vineyard - Still Ongoing!

- Compline with Encore - Sunday, Feb 15 @ 7:30 PM

From the Rector...

***Spoiler alert: Plot details of Hamnet including the ending are revealed in this post.

The film Hamnet tells a fictionalized story of William Shakespeare, his marriage to Anne Hathaway, and the death of their son, Hamnet—a loss said to have inspired the writing of Hamlet. The movie is beautifully filmed in the English countryside, using camera angles and language that awaken a sense of the wild—the feeling that life is never fully within our grasp. Yet this wildness is not something to fear. It is simply the world as it is: untamed, mysterious, and aching with meaning.



At one point in the film, Shakespeare's youngest daughter, Judith, becomes infected with the plague. Her family fights desperately for her life, including her twin brother, Hamnet. He lies beside her in bed and whispers that he will trade his life for hers—that if they lie close together, death will not be able to tell them apart. He succeeds. Death takes him instead.

It is in young Hamnet's death that the story turns, and we see that this is no mere biopic, nor simply an imagined origin story for a famous play. This is tragedy in the truest sense of the word—a tragedy that explores the pain and disorientation of parents who have lost a

child, their grief both shared and solitary, and the quiet danger of drifting apart beneath its weight.

In the months that follow, Anne and William grow distant. Shakespeare spends more time in London, while Anne remains at home with her sorrow. Eventually, Anne hears that he has written a new tragedy to be performed at the Globe Theatre. She and her brother travel to London and find themselves in the audience on opening night. She assumes, of course, that the play will be about her son, and she is confused by the Danish court, the ghostly father, and the murderous uncle. Drawn closer by forces she cannot name, she moves toward the stage and rests her arms upon it.

Anne is captivated. By the final scene, as Hamlet lies dying, she is so overcome that she reaches out to the actor in his agony. He takes her hand and meets her gaze. The moment lasts an eternity, though it is no more than a breath. Others in the audience begin to reach forward as well, until the space between stage and seats dissolves—hands stretching out, Hamlet reaching back. Then he dies. His final words: “The rest is silence.”

There lies Hamlet, hands extended toward him. Anne looks around and sees her grief reflected in every face—tightened jaws, tears held just at the edge, hands still reaching, longing to undo what cannot be undone. And Anne realizes she is not alone in her grief.

We are all connected through our deep sorrows. We all know the pain of wounds that words cannot heal. We reach out to one another. The rest is silence.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Schedule

Rite I Service: 8:00 AM - Nave

Breakfast: 8:30 AM - Ascension Hall

Christian Ed: 9:15 AM - Upper Room & 3rd Floor

Rite II Service: 10:30 AM - Nave

Compline: 7:30 PM - Nave



Compline with *Encore!*

Sunday - 7:30 PM



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18th
Services at
7:00AM, 12:05PM, 5:30PM
5:30PM will be livestreamed

The imposition of ashes alongside
Holy Eucharist is designed to
help us remember not simply that
we are dust—but that we are
God's dust



**Children's Compline! Wednesday Nights!
6:50 PM in the Choir Loft and on Facebook
Live!**

MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM MONDAY - FRIDAY

LIVE ON



Attention Venmo Users



As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to **please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field**. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!

CONNECT

WEDNESDAY

NIGHTLIVE

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

5:15
DINNER
ASCENSION HALL

5:45
THE WORD
SMALL DINING ROOM

6:00
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
3RD FLOOR YOUTH ROOM

6:00
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

6:00
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
LIBRARY

6:45
COMPLINE
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

Dinner Menu:

Spaghetti
Salad
Garlic Bread

\$8 per person or \$20 per family!

**ASCENSIONAIRES
VISIT
TO ASF FOR
THE LEHMAN
TRILOGY**



**Wednesday,
February 11th
2:00PM**

4000 YEARS OF EXILE AND MIGRATION:

The Story of the Jews from Canaan to Present



Speaker:



Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather
Chief Executive Officer
Anne Frank Center USA

Join us for a public lecture series tracing 4,000 years of Jewish history, migration, and resilience from the ancient world to the present. Led by Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, CEO of the Anne Frank Center USA, the series places Jewish experience within a global historical context and highlights its enduring relevance today.

This project is supported by a grant award from the Alabama Humanities Alliance. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the Alabama Humanities Alliance.

7PM - 8:30PM
February 16

Temple Emanu-El
188 N Park Ave
Dothan, AL 36303

2PM to 3:30PM
February 17

Troy University Library
111 International Blvd.
Troy, AL 36082

7PM to 8:30PM
February 18

Temple Beth Or
2246 Narrow Lane Road
Montgomery, AL 36104

6:30PM to 8PM
February 19

Homewood Public Library
1721 Oxmoor Rd.
Birmingham, AL 35209

TROY UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES



ALABAMA HOLOCAUST COMMISSION

ALABAMA
HUMANITIES
ALLIANCE

50
ANNIVERSARY



ALABAMA
HOLOCAUST
EDUCATION
CENTER



TEMPLE EMANU-EL
Dothan, Alabama



GROW



Grace Episcopal Church
906 Pike Road (Pike Road)

Lenten Women's Retreat 2026

Planting our gardens together: A retreat on rootedness

Drawing on the Benedictine principle of Ora et Labora (prayer and work) and the spiritual practices of art, dance, silence, and rest, we will explore how to recognize God's presence within the rhythms of our daily lives—whether in household tasks or corporate responsibilities.

FEB 21
9:00 – 12:00



For More Information

Rev. Mawande Mzongwana
curate@graceepiscopalpike.org
334.472.1413

Register by Jan 31st!

BIBLE BITES



Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
Small Dining Room
Starting January 14

As Christians, studying the Bible is part of how we grow spiritually and form our Christian ethics. Take some time to explore a variety of ways of studying this sacred text through practices like Lectio Divina, Chavruta, and The Examen. Each week we will pick a different practice and text that can help participants enrich their personal Bible study.



BRITTLE, ANXIOUS, NON-LINEAR, INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Christian Leadership in a BANI World

Thursdays at 7:00am
Ascension Hall
Jan 8 - Feb 12

In a BANI world—brittle, anxious, non-linear, and incomprehensible—Christian leadership requires more than confidence and control. In this six-week series, we will explore how God-centered leadership calls us to faithfulness, humility, and courage amid uncertainty. Together, we'll discover how God equips us to lead wisely when the world feels unstable.

In Trouble and In Wonder

The Gospel of St. Thomas

Thursdays - 12pm

Joshua Commons

Women's Bible Study

SERVE

Welcoming Visitors

HELLO!

New Members!

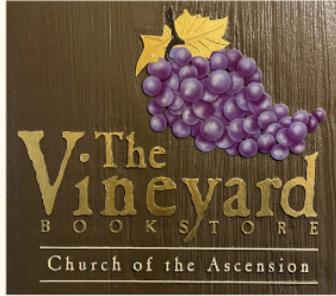
Dear Parish Family,

In an effort to enhance the experience of visitors to our church, the Newcomers Committee is requesting your help.

For those visiting who are not Episcopalians and sit by you, would you kindly assist them with our Prayer Book if they look lost or awkward in finding the service or right page? Simply offer to help in a warm, welcoming way. Also, if they seem unsure about taking communion, invite them to partake.

We want all of our visitors to feel welcome, and these simple measures of hospitality will enhance their worship experience while making a positive first impression of our church.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.



**50% OFF SALE
CONTINUES!**

Come grab a cup of coffee and
shop with us.

Stock up on gifts for
Valentine's Day, Easter, and
Mother's Day

Cash/Check/Venmo Accepted!



BLOOD DONATION SAVES LIVES

Church of the Ascension

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 15th

In the bloodmobile

315 Clanton Avenue, Montgomery

8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.



\$25 e-gift card
and tote bag
for all February
blood donors!

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers



**\$25 e-gift card
and tote bag
for all February
blood donors!**



colors may vary • while supplies last



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and ADS Art Show

Tuesday, February 17th

4:30pm - 6:30pm

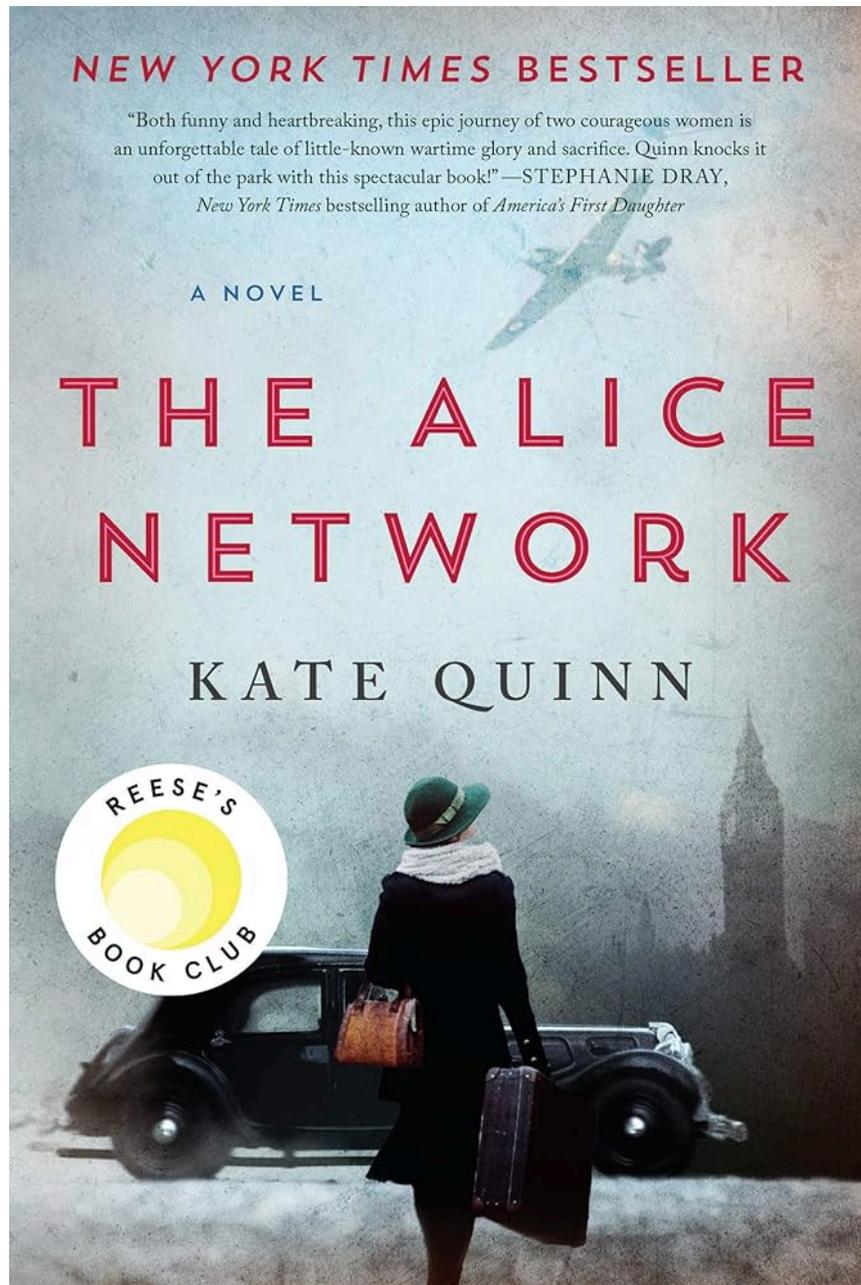
\$5/person or \$20/family

Come support our ADS families and get to know them a little better! All proceeds benefit ADS.



ESL Book Club

Every Other Thursday
9:30 AM in Joshua Commons



ESL Book Club for Internationals will be meeting starting this week. For more information click [HERE](#) or contact Susan Depaola [HERE](#)!



We are in need of cardboard boxes for our Food Box Ministry. Boxes strong enough to support 10 pounds of food such as those made for books or wine bottles are preferred! Boxes can be dropped off in either the office or Ascension Hall lobbies.

Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org

Becky Taylor, Music Ministry beckytaylor@coascension.org

Will McQueen, Facilities Manager will@coascension.org

Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator thinton@coascension.org

Jason Pate, Director of Communications jason@coascension.org

Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister laura@coascension.org

Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister nick@coascension.org

Fay WorriLOW, Administrative Assistant fay@coascension.org

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION

Almighty and everlasting Father, we stand in your presence, awed and silenced by your goodness and wisdom. We rejoice in the outpouring of your Spirit on the Ascension and our ministries. Help each of us to remember that we are walking in your sight, and that you are present with us at every moment. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us in our prayers and enable us to focus our thoughts on you, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will. Grant us the wisdom to ask what you would have us do; the strength and courage to carry out your work; and the grace to show our gratitude through good stewardship of your gracious gifts. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Church of the Ascension | 334-263-5529 | staff@coascension.org | www.coascension.org

[Visit Our Website](#)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

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